STATE OF ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF: Western Growers Financial Services, Inc.) FILE NO. 0600289

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO THE RESPONDENT: Western Growers Financial Services, Inc.

(B/D#: 115115) 17620 Fitch Street Irvine, California 92614

You are hereby notified that pursuant to Section 111 of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5] (the "Act") and 14 Ill. Adm. Code 130, Subpart K, a public hearing will be held at 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, Illinois 60602, on the 6th day of September, 2006, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, before George Berbas, Esq., or such other duly designated Hearing Officer of the Secretary of State.

Said hearing will be held to determine whether an Order shall be entered which would deny Western Growers Financial Services, Inc.'s (the "Respondent") registration as a dealer in the State of Illinois and/or granting such other relief as may be authorized under the Act including but not limited to the imposition of a monetary fine in the maximum amount pursuant to Section 1 LE of the Act, payable within ten (10) business days of the entry of the Order.

The grounds for such proposed action are as follows:

- 1. That on April 26, 2006 the Respondent filed a Form B/D application for registration as a dealer in the State of Illinois.
- 2. That on July 7, 2006, a Summary Order of Denial (the "Order") was issued by the Secretary of State denying this application. Pursuant to the terms of the Order, on July 17, 2006, the Respondent requested a hearing.
- 3. That the Respondent is a corporation which engages in the business of acting as a dealer in the offer and sale of securities to the general public.

- 4. That between January 2006 and May 2006 the Respondent affected a total of ten (10) purchase transactions in the accounts of an Illinois resident.
- 5. That Section 8.A of the Act provides, in pertinent part, except as otherwise provided, every dealer shall be registered as such with the Secretary of State.
- 6. That the activity described in paragraph two (2) above constitutes the activity of a dealer as defined in Section 2.7 of the Act.
- 7. That during all relevant times, the Respondent was not registered with the Secretary of State as a dealer pursuant to Section 8 of the Act.
- 8. That Section 12.A of the Act provides, inter alia, that it shall be a violation of the provisions of the Act for any person to offer or sell any security except in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- 9. That Section 12.C of the Act provides, inter alia, that it is a violation of the provisions of the Act for any person to act as a dealer, unless registered as such where such registration is required under the provisions of the Act.
- 10. That by virtue of the foregoing, the Respondent has violated Sections 12.A and 12.C of the Act.
- 11. That Section 8.E (1)(g) of the Act provides that the registration of a dealer may be denied if it has violated any of the provisions of this Act.
- 12. That by virtue of the foregoing, the Respondent's registration as a dealer in the State of Illinois is subject to denial pursuant to Section 8.E(1) (g) of the Act.

You are further notified that you are required pursuant to Section 130.1104 of the Rules and Regulations (14 Ill. Adm. Code 130) (the "Rules"), to file an answer to the allegations outlined above within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this notice. A failure to file an answer within the prescribed time shall be construed as an admission of the allegations contained in the Notice of Hearing.

Furthermore, you may be represented by legal counsel; may present evidence; may cross-examine witnesses and otherwise participate. A failure to so appear shall constitute default, unless any Respondent has upon due notice moved for and obtained a continuance.

A copy of the Rules, promulgated under the Act and pertaining to Hearings held by the Office of the Secretary of State, Securities Department, is included with this Notice.

Delivery of notice to the designated representative of any Respondent constitutes service upon such Respondent.

Dated: This 25th day of July 2006.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
State of Illinois

Attorney for the Secretary of State: Daniel A. Tunick Office of the Secretary of State Illinois Securities Department 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220 Chicago, Illinois 60602 312-793-3384

Hearing Officer: George Berbas 180 N. LaSalle Street Chicago, Illinois 60601